



# Bournville 125

## Practical Hope

### Programme

Thursday 13 July  
The Beeches, Bournville

Tomorrow 125



tcpa

The Lady Margaret  
Paterson Osborn Trust



**Bournville**  
*Village Trust*

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***'...the vastness of the task which seems to frighten some of my friends, represents, in fact, the very measure of its value to the community, if that task be only undertaken in a worthy spirit and with worthy aims.'***

Howard, E. *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform*, 1898

***'Whatever the defeats of the idealists from time to time in human history, we must always keep before us the greater constructive purposes of life.'***

Ashbee, C.R. *Where the Great City Stands*, 1917

***'We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world.'***

Wall Kimmerer, R. *Braiding Sweetgrass*, 2013

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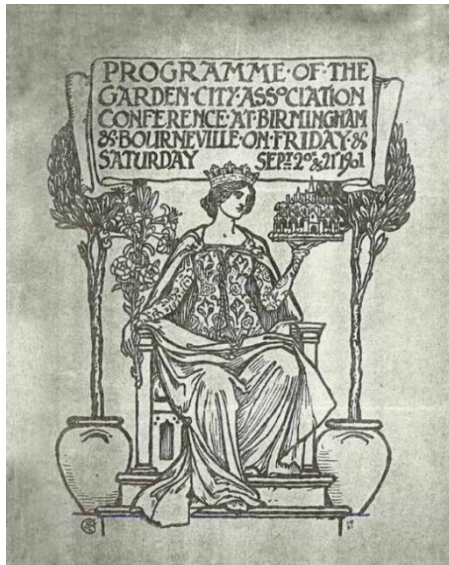
## Practical Hope

### Welcome

Thank you for joining us for what we hope will be a day of creative thought and practical action!

Why Bournville? In 1901, the Garden Cities Association (later the Town & Country Planning Association) held a conference aiming to make the Garden City vision a reality. Today, the TCPA with our project partners have invited communities, charitable trusts and foundations, thought leaders and urbanists to understand how to realise this vision today. We will be exploring whether we can agree on the basic building blocks of flourishing lives and then working to see what this means in the context of real places. Please find out more by reading our 'Building the Future' proposition paper in the enclosed delegate pack.

We are building a coalition of support and hope you will join us on this journey, and in the meantime, make some new connections and enjoy some excellent cake.



Bournville Garden Cities Association Conference - 1901

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### Context

2023 marks the 125th anniversary of Ebenezer Howard's Book *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform*. The Garden City idea outlined in its pages was a practical way of securing 'the good life' by creating living conditions in which everyone can flourish. It was a uniquely practical vision based on the creation of social value, a vibrant democracy and deep understanding of our practical and spiritual relationship with nature. It proved to be one of the most influential and enduring examples of an alternative and sustainable way of living that the UK has ever produced.

But in recent years the term 'Garden City' has been much abused and devalued. Howard's hopeful ideas are rarely holistically applied, and despite political interest, are often invisible to the communities that need change the most.

The TCPA's **Tomorrow 125 Project** has been exploring whether, by returning to the radical roots of the Garden City idea, we can learn how to construct a fairer, healthier and more sustainable future. This has involved understanding what Ebenezer Howard's real aspirations were, as well as exploring how to overcome the misconceptions that have grown around the term 'Garden City'.

The project is now in its third year, and we have been developing, in collaboration with our project partners a proposition for a new development model based on the learning of the Garden Cities and a wealth of contemporary ideas about social organisation. This is not a blueprint but a framework for the renewal of existing places and creation of new communities.



## Accessible for all

Integrated and convenient walking and wheeling routes and public transport systems.

## Equitable

Sharing land values for community benefit.

## Vibrant and inclusive

Culturally diverse, energising, sociable neighbourhoods.

## Visionary and collaborative

Strong vision, leadership and community participation.

## Landscaped, climate resilient

Development that enhances the natural environment and addresses climate change.

# Garden City Principles

Nurturing communities and the environment

## Nurtured

Community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets.

## Designed to marry town and country

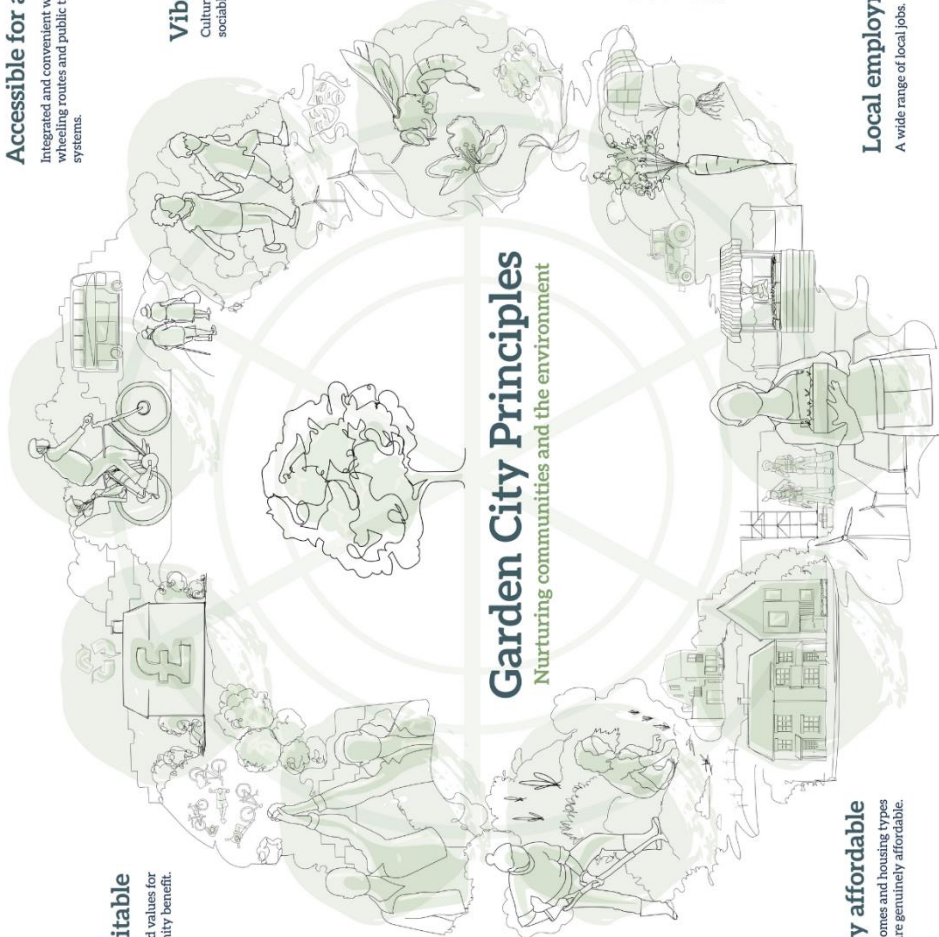
Places that enhance people's health and wellbeing.

## Genuinely affordable

Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are genuinely affordable.

## Local employment

A wide range of local jobs.



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### Agenda

- 09:00      **Bournville walking tour** (optional)
- 09:30      **Tea, coffee and pastries available to arrivals**
- 10:30      **Welcome and introduction to the summit**
- 10:50      **Session 1: Setting the scene, followed by facilitated discussion**
- 11:50      **Break**
- 12:05      **Session 2: Practical hope: the art of action**  
*Community voices making practical hope a reality*
- 13:00      **Lunch served in the garden**  
*Exhibition space open and opportunity to network with community organisers*
- 14:00      **Session 3: Imagining the future in new and renewed communities**  
*Collaborative sessions in small groups with a team of facilitators*
- 16:00      **Break**  
*Tea, coffee and cake served*
- 16:15      **Session 4: Making it happen**  
*Closing session focused on next steps*
- 16:30      **Close**
- 17:00      **Bournville walking tour** (optional)

*Please consult the delegate pack for the most up-to-date version of the agenda*

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Members of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association in Bournville in 1928



TCPA performance of 'Land of Promise' in 2022

## Imagining the Future in New and Renewed Communities: A brief for Session 3 of today's summit

The Garden City pioneers were concerned with place and illustrated in detail how their ideas would work 'on the ground' in 'The Garden City'. In 2023 the TCPA will publish two prospectus documents, illustrating how the ideas that have emerged through *Tomorrow125* might play out in real places today. One prospectus will be for a new community, a Third Garden City. The other will be for the renewal of an existing town. To ground these prospectuses in reality we have chosen two specific locations to provide some development context:

1. **The Third Garden City** will use the location of 'The City in the Vale', a proposed location for a New Town north of Oxford in the 'Oxford-Cambridge Corridor', identified by the National Infrastructure Commission in 2015.
2. **The New Town: New Future prospectus** will use the context of Peterlee, a post-war New Town in County Durham. We hope this work will feed into projects the TCPA is working on with communities in the town.

In Session 3 today, you will be put into a group looking at either context 1 or 2. Our expert facilitators will help you move around tables in our 'virtual café', thinking about how to make flourishing lives a reality. This includes suggesting solutions based on the restoration of nature and climate resilience, on democracy, and the local economy.

The prospectuses will outline what changes are needed to deliver these ideas today. We will consider the implications of these ideas in terms of our current delivery model, but today we invite you to think beyond the current legislative and regulatory constraints and imagine how we might evolve these to create truly sustainable places and flourishing lives.



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### Bournville Walking Tours

#### **Walking tour 1: 9am-9:30am – led by Arthur Tsang, BVT Director of Communities**

A walking tour exploring Bournville's strong cultural, recreational, and shopping facilities in its walkable, vibrant and sociable neighbourhood.

- Begin at the Beeches Conference Centre, Selly Oak Road
- Walk down Selly Oak Road towards Bournville Park
- Walk through Bournville Park and exit on Linden Road
- Walk to Village Green (taking in St Francis Church, shops, Selly Manor Museum, Quaker Meeting House and school)
- Walk from Green along Woodbrook Road and take exit onto Oak Tree Lane
- Walk along Oak Tree Lane to join Selly Oak Road and travel back to the Beeches

#### **Tour 2: 5pm-6pm – led by Pete Richmond, BVT Chief Executive**

A walking tour exploring Bournville's beautifully and imaginatively designed homes and how the Village combines the best of town and country to create healthy communities with opportunities to grow food.

- Begin at the Beeches Conference Centre, Selly Oak Road
- Walk to Heath Road and past Rowheath Pavilion
- Walk to Hay Green Allotments, High Heath Close
- Walk from High Heath Close down Cob Lane (past St Lazars Church)
- Cross Bristol Road to visit College Green health village
- Cross back onto Bournville Lane
- Walk along Bournville Lane back to the Beeches

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### Exhibition space

#### Spaces of Hope: People's Plans

This exhibition presents findings from the research project 'Spaces of Hope: People's Plans'. Conducted in conjunction with the TCPA, the project is producing the first sustained history of community-led planning (CLP) in the UK. Too often the focus has been on how citizens can influence official processes of public participation in planning. Alongside this formal system, however, runs a rich history of informal community organising around planning issues. By bringing together activists, community groups, universities and artists, the project is exploring the often overlooked ways people have got involved in planning the future of their communities since the 1960s. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council the project runs until August 2023. We hope the exhibition will generate debate about the relevance of these often hidden histories for contemporary approaches to participatory planning and place-making.

#### About Bournville Village Trust

Bournville Village Trust is one of the Midlands' longest serving, independent and values-led charitable trusts and works to create and sustain communities where people can thrive. It manages environmentally sustainable estates, provides great homes, delivers community-support services that help people live successful and healthy lives, and ploughs surplus from commercial activities back into its neighbourhoods in Birmingham and Telford.



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Artist Nocciola the Drawer in front of the 'Future of Peterlee' mural which was designed with local young people through a partnership project between the TCPA and East Durham Creates

Scan this code to  
download  
**Building the  
Future:**



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With thanks to you, our attendees, speakers and supporters.

Find out more: [www.tomorrow125.org.uk/](http://www.tomorrow125.org.uk/)

Tweet us: @theTCPA #Bournville125

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